

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced a special grant to increase awareness of the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II in Crystal City.

“After the 1941 attack at Pearl Harbor, more than 110,000 people of Japanese descent – many American citizens – were detained in camps around the country,” Congressman Rodriguez said at an event in Crystal City on September 12 “This National Park Service grant will go toward preserving this important site and teaching current and future generations about this experience so that we can learn from it.”

The grant of \$34,300 will help fund a program called “An Untold Story from World War II: Japanese Confinement at Crystal City, Texas.” The Texas Historical Commission, working with Crystal City, applied for the grant through the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites Program. Other matching funds will bring the total to \$52,842.

Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the Japanese American Citizens League in Washington, D.C., commended the leadership of Congressman Rodriguez and congratulated the Texas Historical Commission for receiving the funding, which the JACL initiated in 2006.

“This funding would not have been possible were it not for the support of Congressman Rodriguez, who sits on the Appropriations Committee,” Mori said. “The story of Crystal City is important to preserve as we reflect on the need to educate Americans on the fragile nature of civil liberties in times of stress. Japanese Americans as well as Japanese Latin Americans were denied due process and ended up incarcerated at this site.

It will be an important reminder that we should not allow history to repeat itself.”

William McWhorter, military historian with the Texas Historical Commission, added: “The Crystal City Family Internment Camp, the largest of its kind in the U.S. during World War II, is threatened by a lack of public awareness of this nationally significant site. This grant will increase the interpretation of this unique World War II site and story. Standing on historic ground such as this puts people in a perfect frame of mind to consider their cultural heritage and the importance of preserving it for future generations.”

Congressman Rodriguez represents the 20 counties of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, which stretches from San Antonio to El Paso and down to the border. He is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs/Health Subcommittee and Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee.

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